



GENDER BUDGETING INITIATIVE IN INDIA FOR WOMEN EMPOWERMENT

Prabodh Kumar Panda¹ | Dr. Salil Kumar Mukherjee¹

¹ Assistant professor in Commerce, South Malda College, Pubarun, Malda, 722215.

ABSTRACT

Throughout the world the Social position of Women are more or less same. Women are lagging behind in our society. Women representation in higher education, administration, politics etc. are very poor. The concept of Gender budgeting was first introduced by Australia in 1984. Gender Budgeting means special emphasis given to Women in the Budget allocation. In India the Gender Budget initiative started in 2005-2006 Budget. This paper highlighted the present position of India in the Global Gender gap index in compare to some other countries. This study tries to highlight the Govt. Initiative for women empowerment through Budget allocation in several Union Budgets.

KEY WORDS: Union Budget, Gender Budget, Women Empowerment, Women and Child Development, Budget Allocation, Gross Enrolment Ratio, Global Inequality Index, Census.

Introduction:

women and girls face various forms of vulnerability throughout the life. They face discriminations before or after birth; violence harassment or abuse, neglect due to dependence and lack of access to resources; exploitation- whether economic, political, social or religious.

Gender Budgeting (GB) is a tool that can be used to address these vulnerabilities. Gender reflects culturally and socially constructed roles, responsibilities, privileges, relations and expectations of women and men. GB is concerned with gender sensitive formulation of legislation, policies, plans, programmes and schemes, implementation and execution and follows up corrective action to address gender disparities.

Throughout the world the condition of women is more or less same. General condition of women throughout the world is summarized below:

- i) Most of the illiterate people around the world are women.
- ii) Maternal mortality rate is high in developing countries.
- iii) Women representation in decision making in government sector, business sector and even in household sector is very low.
- iv) Women are to take care for children and old aged people.
- v) Women are to do as a cook in the kitchen in the household.

Objective of the study:

The main objectives of this study are-(1) To highlight the concept of Gender Budgeting (2) To study the present status of Indian women. (3) To study the budget allocations to Women by the Union Govt. in several budgets for bridging the gap between men and women.

Methodology:

The study is based on secondary data which are available from different websites, journals, hand book, periodicals etc. The study is purely based on theoretical and quantitative analysis. Different charts and diagrams are also used. Data from Union Budget 2005-2006 to 2017-2018 have been collected from the website- Ministry of Finance, Govt. Of India and the Ministry of Women and Child Development.

What is gender budgeting?

Gender budgeting means gender based assessment of budget, restructuring revenues and expenditure in order to promote gender equality. It does not mean the separate budget for male and female. It means how women are represented in the budget and what allocations are made for them.

Gender budgeting initiatives in India:

Australia is the first country to incorporate gender budgeting into its budget process in 1984 to address inequalities between women and men. India formally adopted gender responsive budgeting in 2005, by adopting gender budget statement in the budget 2005-2006. Gender responsive budgeting is a method of planning, programming and budgeting that helps gender equality and women's rights. In India so far 57 government ministries/departments have set up gender budgeting cells. Apart from The Central Government, 17 State Governments have also

adopted Gender Budget.

Women constitute almost half of Indian population, but they lag behind men on many social indicators like health, education, social justice and economic opportunities. Hence they need special attention due to their vulnerability and lack of access to resources. Objective of Gender Budgeting is to ensure that policy commitments and financial outlays are made on a gender perspective. The main objective of Gender Budgeting is to influence and effect Gender oriented budgetary policies, programmes to control gender imbalances and to promote gender equality and development.

Women in India:

There have been innumerable conflicts and debate about gender in India over the years. Much of it's includes in equality to the women on their position in society their health, education and employment. Almost in all the cases concern conclude that women have always held a certain weaker position in our country.

At the time of independence in our country the participation of women nationalist was widely acknowledged. Our constitution also granted equal rights to women in terms of freedom and opportunity. But the condition of women till date is a different reality.

There existed insoluble social and cultural barriers to education, employment and health of women. In our society till date, the birth of the girl child is considered inauspicious in villages as well as in cities and even the girl child is killed even before their birth.

Dropout rates for girls have fallen by 16.5% between the year 2000 and 2005. But few Government programs like Sarba-Siksha Abhiyan and Sakshar Bharat Mission for female literacy have helped to increase the literacy rate from less than 10% to more than 50%.

The scenario of present position of Indian Women is changing towards betterment but in a very slow rate. Today Indian Women have excelled from sports to politics, literature to technology, social work to entertainment everywhere. Names like Deepa Karmakar, Sakshi Malik, P. V. Sindhu, Mary Kom, Jhumpa Lahiri, Kalpana Chawla, Medha Patkar, Vidya Ballan and many others making their presence felt. Over the years women of India made their great strides in their respective field with notable progress and thus helping positively in reducing some gender gap.

Gender inequality index:

The Global Gender Gap measure was introduced by World Economic Forum to examine four areas of inequality-(1) Economic participation and opportunity (salary, high skill employment), (2) Educational attainment (Basic and Higher Level), (3) Political Empowerment (representation in decision making), (4) Health and survival (life expectancy and Sex ratio).

Table -1

Country	Gender inequality index 2014		Maternal mortality ratio (death per 100000 live birth) 2013	Adolescent birth rate (birth per 1000 women 15-19 years) 2010/2015(b)	Share of seats in the parliament (% held by women) 2014	Population with at least some secondary education % ages 25 & older		Labour force participation Rate (% ages 15 years and older) 2013	
	Value	Rank				Female (2005-2014)	Male (2005-2014)	Female	Male
India	0.563	130	190	32.8	12.2	27	56.6	27	79.9
Bangladesh	0.503	111	170	80.6	20	34.1	41.3	57.4	84.1
Afghanistan	0.693	152	400	86.8	27.6	5.9	29.8	15.8	79.5
Pakistan	0.536	121	170	27.3	19.7	19.3	46.1	24.6	82.9

*Source: UNDP Human development report, 2015(compiled)

Gender inequality in employment and decision making is much less than Men. This disparity is not likely to be eliminated soon. The Government has launched several commendable schemes to save and educate the girl child and the national average of sex ratio has risen from 933 to 940 per 1000 males according to the census report 2001 and 2011.

Gender inequality is also reflected in India's low rank on UNDP's Gender Inequality Index. In 2014, the country ranked 130 out of 155 countries with a value of rupees 0.563.

Gender budgeting: Ministry of women and Child Welfare

Table -2: Part-A-Women Specific Programmes (100% Allocation for Women)

Year	Women specific (Budget Estimate) (in Rs. Crore)	Percentage Share to Gender Budget
2005-2006	7905.08	32.90
2006-2007	9575.82	33.32
2007-2008	8795.47	28.21
2008-2009	11459.61	41.43
2009-2010	15715.68	27.64
2010-2011	19266.05	28.43
2011-2012	20548.35	26.26
2012-2013	22968.93	26.06
2013-2014	27248.29	28.05
2014-2015	21847.61	22.33
2015-2016	16657.84	21.02
2016-2017	17412.01	19.21
Compound Annual Growth Rate(CAGR)	7.44	

Source: Expenditure Budget, Volume 1 (Statement 20), Various Issues.

Table-2 represents women specific allocation of funds of gender budgeting statement since 2005-2006 to 2016-2017. The average percentage of share of allocations under part-A is 27.91% and is exclusively meant for women specific programmes. The compound annual growth rate for budget allocation for women specific programmes is 7.44%.

Table -3: Part-B (30% Women Specific Programmes)

Year	Women Related Allocations (BE) (in Rs. Crore)	Percentage Share to Gender Budget
2005-2006	16126.92	67.10
2006-2007	19160.71	66.68
2007-2008	22382.49	71.79
2008-2009	16202.06	58.57
2009-2010	41141.93	72.36
2010-2011	48483.75	71.56
2011-2012	57702.67	73.74
2012-2013	65173.87	73.94
2013-2014	69889.41	71.95
2014-2015	76142.23	77.67
2015-2016	62600.03	78.98
2016-2017	73212.75	80.79
Compound Annual Growth Rate(CAGR)	14.74	

Source: Expenditure Budget, Volume 1 (Statement 20), Various Issues.

Table-3 represents women specific allocation of funds of gender budgeting statement since 2005-2006 to 2016-2017. There is an increasing trend of allocations under part-B of gender budgeting statement except the year 2008-2009. The average percentage of share of allocations under part -B is 72.09%. The compound annual growth rate for allocation of funds under part-B is 14.74%.

Conclusion:

Women participation in politics, employment education or health is still represents a meagre proportions though women constitute nearly half of the Country's total population (48%). Recent United National Development Programme's Human Development Report (HDR) 2015 reveals that India ranks a lowly 130th out of 155 countries in the Gender Inequality Index (GII). India trails behind most Asian countries, including lesser developed Bangladesh and Pakistan which rank 111 and 121 respectively, and fares not much ahead of war-ravaged Afghanistan at 152.

The GII reflects gender-based inequalities on three vital parameters: reproductive health, empowerment, and economic activity. India's performance is very poor especially when it comes to representation of women in Parliament. Just 12.2% of parliamentary seats in the world's largest democracy are held by women as against 19.7% in Pakistan, 20% in Bangladesh and 27.6% in Afghanistan.

Health reflects a dismal picture as well with Indian women's maternal mortality rate (MMR) being one of the world's highest. The country witnesses 190 deaths per 100,000 live births as compared to 170 pregnancy-related deaths per 100,000 births in both Bangladesh and Pakistan, states the HDR. Even in terms of the percentage of women receiving secondary education, Bangladesh at 34 per cent outsmarts India at 27 per cent. On labour force participation rate for women, as compared to Bangladesh's 57 per cent, India is at 27 per cent. The only parameter where India scores marginally better is the adolescent birth rate or the number of births per 1000 women aged 15 to 19 years. One of the most pivotal instrument of change — the Women's Reservation Bill, which seeks to grant 33 per cent of the Parliament's seats to women — has still not been passed by the Rajya Sabha despite being cleared by the Lok Sabha in 2010.

According to some women politicians, bias underlines the selection of women as political candidates. National and regional Indian parties continue to follow the policy of exclusion while allotting seats to women.

The Indian women's workforce participation has decreased from 35 % in 1990 to 27 % in 2013. According to a 2012 report on global employment trends by the International Labour Organisation, many Indian women are able to find only marginal work in the informal economy, with low wages and little or no job security. Well-qualified young urban women also admitted the lack of job opportunity.

Stricter policy and legislative measures need to be adopted as there is statutory recognition of the principle of equal job opportunities and equal pay under the Equal Remuneration Act, 1976.

Some measures have been taken by the Central government to address the gender parity skew. The government has announced a 33 per cent reservation for women in police forces of union territories, including Delhi, for posts from constables to sub-inspectors to make the police more gender-sensitive. Another scheme — 'Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao' (Save the Daughter, Educate her) — focuses on improving the life of the girl child in 100 districts with low child sex ratio (CSR), meaning many fewer girls than boys.

We need gender-responsive budgeting and money to be allocated and spent effectively on achieving these goals. Any breakthrough on gender equality also requires changes in the mindsets of all stakeholders — including legislators, administrators as well as the public as a whole.

ANNEXURE - 1

Gender Budget (Extract)

Notes on demand for grants

Total in Rupees Crores

Ministry/ Department	2014-15 Budget (Revised)	2015-16 Budget (Revised)	2016-17 Budget (Revised)	2017-18 Budget
National Mission for Empowerment of Women	10	20.68	42	70
Support to Training and Employment Program	8	11.74	30	40
Ujjawala	12.50	19.94	24	50
Working Women Hostel	25	12.19	28	50
Beti Bachao Beti Padhao	NA	59.36	43	200
Women Helpline	10	15.12	25	10
Others scheme funded from Nirbhaya fund	NA	NA	585	400
Transfer to Nirbhaya fund	NA	NA	500	500
Scheme for the welfare of working children in need of care and protection	2.50	5.00	2.50	2.00
Integrated child development scheme	9771.34	15433	14560	15245.19
National nutrition mission	10.00	56.23	175	1500
National institute for public cooperation and child development	16.63	19.50	29.69	30.30

Source: Ministry of women and Child Development

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